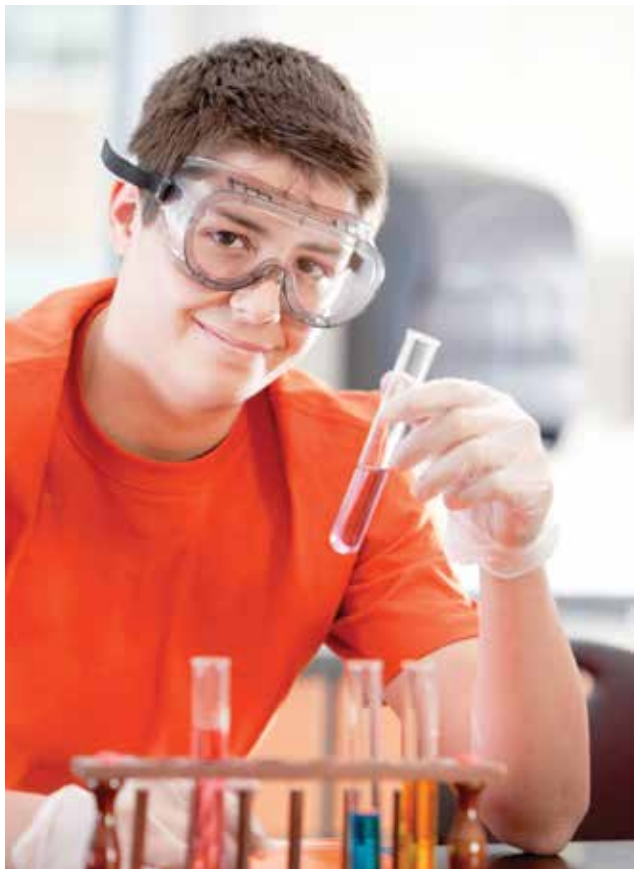
SAFETY IN THE SCIENCE CLASSROOM

Safety in the K-12 SCIENCE CLASSROOM



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Acknowledgements

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Publication data and special thanks

This resource was originally developed and copyrighted by Alberta Education who has graciously authorized the adaptation of this resource for the needs of Saskatchewan users.

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We also thank the following companies for supplying resource images:

Chatterson Janitorial Supplies Ltd. – WHMIS supplier and workplace labels

St. John's Ambulance – first aid kit

Weber Supply Company Inc. – acid cabinet, eyewash station, spill kit

Several Web sites are listed in this document to only identify potentially useful ideas for teaching and learning. The Ministry of Education nor WorkSafe Saskatchewan are responsible for maintaining these external sites, nor does the listing of these sites constitute or imply endorsement of their content. The responsibility to evaluate these sites rests with the user. All Web site addresses were confirmed as accurate at the time of publication but are subject to change.

The primary intended audience for this informational resource document is:

- Administrators
- Counsellors
- General audience
- Students
- Teachers

Every effort has been made to provide proper acknowledgement of original sources. If cases are identified where this has not been done, please notify the Ministry of Education so appropriate corrective action can be taken. General questions or concerns regarding this document can also be addressed to the Ministry of Education.

Please note this document, including the chemical hazard information table, is available on the WorkSafe Saskatchewan site at:

http://www.worksafesask.ca/

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Introduction

The concept of science safety should be introduced to elementary students and then built upon as students' progress from an elementary to a secondary level. In early grades, students' exploratory activities with materials provide the starting point for their concept and skill development. In later grades, this is built upon by learning controlled investigation and experimentation techniques. Through practice, laboratory activities provide an opportunity to understand the nature of science, and the interplay of evidence and theory. This in turn, develops students' science inquiry and problem solving skills.

The challenge for schools is to offer science activities that are both educationally rewarding and safe. Team work and involving those who set and administer school policies, design and maintain the learning environment, plan and deliver science programs, and select and prepare the material used, is the best way to address this challenge. When working together, the possibility of achieving educationally rewarding and safe science activities increases.

The goal of this K-12 science safety resource is to bring information together that is needed by administrators, planners, teachers, and support staff to help them make sound decisions regarding science safety. It supports planning and action by providing information on safety legislation, standards, and concerns, as well as example procedures for eliminating or minimizing hazards.

The majority of this resource has been adopted from the original Albertan publication. Updates have been made to account for Saskatchewan specific legislation, standards and best practices. The materials in this safety resource have been compiled from reliable sources and are intended to serve as a starting point for safety planning. This resource is informational only and does not prescribe the specific technical detail that some users may require, nor does it speak to every possible safety concern within a science program.

While efforts have been made to include the most reliable and up to date information, Saskatchewan educational bodies and WorkSafe Saskatchewan cannot assume responsibility for the accuracy, currency or completeness of this information or for the consequences of its use. We cannot assure that all necessary warnings and precautionary measures are contained herein. Additional information or measures may be required due to exceptional circumstances.

It should also be noted that the *Workers' Compensation Board Act, 2013* will become effective January 1, 2014. Moreover, the chemical hazard information table has not been changed from the Albertan content except for the addition of the chemical abstract service number column. The information within that column has had a chemist's review and has been complied from the services of the American Chemical Society and the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.